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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

SAC 5 1. A method for processing foreign protocol requests across a system area network, the method comprising:
10 receiving a request from a device utilizing a protocol which is foreign to a protocol utilized by the system area network;
15 encapsulating the request in a data packet; and sending the data packet to a requested node via the system area network fabric.

2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the
15 request is a first request, the data packet is a first data packet, and the sending the data packet comprises sending the data packet on a first virtual lane, and further comprising:
20 receiving a second request from a device utilizing a protocol which is foreign to the protocol utilized by the system area network;
25 encapsulating the second request in a second data packet; and responsive to a determination that the first and second requests are to be kept in order, sending the second data packet to a requested node via the first virtual lane on the system area network fabric.

3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the
30 request is a first request, the data packet is a first data packet, and the sending the data packet comprises

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sending the data packet on a first virtual lane, and further comprising:

5 receiving a second request from a device utilizing a protocol which is foreign to the protocol utilized by the system area network;

encapsulating the second request in a second data packet; and

responsive to a determination that the first and second requests should be able to bypass the other,

10 sending the second data packet to a requested node via a second virtual lane on the system area network fabric.

4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the request is an interrupt received by a target channel

15 adapter and further comprising:

receiving the data packet, at a host channel adapter, and decoding the data packet to retrieve the interrupt; and

interrupting the processor.

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5. The method as recited in claim 4, wherein the data packet is a first data packet and further comprising:

receiving, at the host channel adapter, an end of interrupt instruction;

25 encapsulating the end of interrupt instruction into a second data packet; and

transmitting the second data packet to the target channel adapter via the system area network fabric.

30 6. The method as recited in claim 5, further comprising:

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receiving the second data packet;
decoding the second data packet to determine that
the interrupt is complete.

5 7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the
foreign protocol is a peripheral component interconnect
bus protocol.

8. The method as recited in claim 1, further
10 comprising:

receiving, at the requested node, the data packet;
decoding the data packet to obtain the foreign
protocol request; and
transmitting the foreign protocol request to an
15 appropriate device.

9. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the steps
of receiving a request, encapsulating the request, and
sending the data packet are performed by a host channel
20 adapter.

10. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the
requested node is a target channel adapter.

25 11. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the steps
of receiving, at the requested node, the data packet,
decoding the data packet, and transmitting the foreign
protocol request are performed by a target channel
adapter.

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12. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the steps

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of receiving, at the requested node, the data packet, decoding the data packet, and transmitting the foreign protocol request are performed by a host channel adapter.

5 13. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the step of transmitting the foreign protocol request comprises converting the request to an appropriate host transaction.

10 14. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the steps of receiving a request, encapsulating the request, and sending the data packet are performed by a target channel adapter.

15 15. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the requested node is a host channel adapter.

16. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of encapsulating the foreign protocol request comprises placing the request into a data packet with appropriate headers and trailers in the data packet to ensure that the data packet is delivered across the system area network fabric to the requested node.

20 25 17. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the step of decoding the data packet comprises determining that the data packet contains a foreign protocol request and removing the foreign protocol request from the data packet.

30 18. A method for processing foreign protocol requests

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across a system area network, the method comprising:

receiving a data packet from a system area network fabric;

5 determining that the data packet contains an encapsulated foreign protocol transmission;

decoding the data packet to obtain the foreign protocol transmission; and

sending the foreign protocol transmission to a requested device.

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19. The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the foreign protocol is a peripheral component interconnect bus protocol.

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20. The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the requested device is an input/output adapter.

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21. The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the steps of receiving, determining, decoding, and sending are performed by a target channel adapter.

22. The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the steps of receiving, determining, decoding, and sending are performed by a host channel adapter.

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23. The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the step of sending comprises converting the foreign protocol request to an appropriate host transaction.

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24. A computer program product in a computer readable media for use in a networked data processing system for

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processing foreign protocol requests across a system area network, the computer program product comprising:

- 5 first instructions for receiving a request from a device utilizing a protocol which is foreign to a protocol utilized by the system area network;
- second instructions for encapsulating the request in a data packet; and
- third instructions for sending the data packet to a requested node via the system area network fabric.

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25. The computer program product as recited in claim 24,
wherein the request is a first request, the data packet
is a first data packet, and the sending the data packet
comprises sending the data packet on a first virtual

15 lane, and further comprising:

fourth instructions for receiving a second request from a device utilizing a protocol which is foreign to the protocol utilized by the system area network;

20 fifth instructions for encapsulating the second request in a second data packet; and

sixth instructions, responsive to a determination that the first and second requests are to be kept in order, for sending the second data packet to a requested node via the first virtual lane on the system area network fabric.

26. The computer program product as recited in claim 24,
wherein the request is a first request, the data packet
is a first data packet, and the sending the data packet
30 comprises sending the data packet on a first virtual
lane, and further comprising:

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fourth instructions for receiving a second request from a device utilizing a protocol which is foreign to the protocol utilized by the system area network;

fifth instructions for encapsulating the second
5 request in a second data packet; and

sixth instructions, responsive to a determination that the first and second requests should be able to bypass the other, for sending the second data packet to a requested node via a second virtual lane on the system area network fabric.

10 area network fabric.

27. The computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the request is an interrupt received by a target channel adapter and further comprising:

15 fourth instructions for receiving the data packet, at a host channel adapter, and decoding the data packet to retrieve the interrupt; and

fifth instruction for interrupting the processor.

20 28. The computer program product as recited in claim 27,
wherein the data packet is a first data packet and
further comprising:

sixth instructions for receiving, at the host channel adapter, an end of interrupt instruction;

25 seventh instructions for encapsulating the end of
interrupt instruction into a second data packet; and

eight instructions for transmitting the second data packet to the target channel adapter via the system area network fabric.

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29. The computer program product as recited in claim 28,

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further comprising:

ninth instructions for receiving the second data packet;

5 tenth instructions for decoding the second data packet to determine that the interrupt is complete.

30. The computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the foreign protocol is a peripheral component interconnect bus protocol.

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31. The computer program product as recited in claim 24, further comprising:

fourth instructions for receiving, at the requested node, the data packet;

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fifth instructions for decoding the data packet to obtain the foreign protocol request; and

sixth instructions for transmitting the foreign protocol request to an appropriate device.

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32. The computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the steps of receiving a request, encapsulating the request, and sending the data packet are performed by a host channel adapter.

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33. The computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the requested node is a target channel adapter.

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34. The computer program product as recited in claim 31, wherein the instructions for receiving, at the requested node, the data packet, decoding the data packet, and transmitting the foreign protocol request are performed

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by a target channel adapter.

35. The computer program product as recited in claim 31, wherein the instructions for receiving, at the requested 5 node, the data packet, decoding the data packet, and transmitting the foreign protocol request are performed by a host channel adapter.

36. The computer program product as recited in claim 31, 10 wherein the instructions for transmitting the foreign protocol request comprises converting the request to an appropriate host transaction.

37. The computer program product as recited in claim 24, 15 wherein the instructions for receiving a request, encapsulating the request, and sending the data packet are performed by a target channel adapter.

38. The computer program product as recited in claim 24, 20 wherein the requested node is a host channel adapter.

39. The computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the instructions for encapsulating the foreign protocol request comprises placing the request into a 25 data packet with appropriate headers and trailers in the data packet to ensure that the data packet is delivered across the system area network fabric to the requested node.

30 40. The computer program product as recited in claim 31, wherein the instructions for decoding the data packet

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comprises determining that the data packet contains a foreign protocol request and removing the foreign protocol request from the data packet.

5 41. A computer program product in a computer readable media for use in a data processing system for processing foreign protocol requests across a system area network, the computer program product comprising:

10 first instructions for receiving a data packet from a system area network fabric;

15 second instructions for determining that the data packet contains an encapsulated foreign protocol transmission;

20 third instructions for decoding the data packet to obtain the foreign protocol transmission; and

25 fourth instructions for sending the foreign protocol transmission to a requested device.

30 42. The computer program product as recited in claim 41, wherein the foreign protocol is a peripheral component interconnect bus protocol.

35 43. The computer program product as recited in claim 41, wherein the requested device is an input/output adapter.

40 44. The computer program product as recited in claim 41, wherein the instructions for receiving, determining, decoding, and sending are performed by a target channel adapter.

45. The computer program product as recited in claim 41,

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wherein the instructions for receiving, determining, decoding, and sending are performed by a host channel adapter.

5 46. The computer program product as recited in claim 45,
wherein the instructions for sending comprises converting
the foreign protocol request to an appropriate host
transaction.

10 47. A system for processing foreign protocol requests
across a system area network, the system comprising:

first means for receiving a request from a device utilizing a protocol which is foreign to a protocol utilized by the system area network;

15 second means for encapsulating the request in a data
packet; and

third means for sending the data packet to a requested node via the system area network fabric.

20 48. The system as recited in claim 47, wherein the request is a first request, the data packet is a first data packet, and the sending the data packet comprises sending the data packet on a first virtual lane, and further comprising:

25 fourth means for receiving a second request from a device utilizing a protocol which is foreign to the protocol utilized by the system area network;

fifth means for encapsulating the second request in a second data packet; and

30 sixth means, responsive to a determination that the
first and second requests are to be kept in order, for

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sending the second data packet to a requested node via the first virtual lane on the system area network fabric.

49. The system as recited in claim 47, wherein the
5 request is a first request, the data packet is a first
data packet, and the sending the data packet comprises
sending the data packet on a first virtual lane, and
further comprising:

10 fourth means for receiving a second request from a
device utilizing a protocol which is foreign to the
protocol utilized by the system area network;

15 fifth means for encapsulating the second request in
a second data packet; and

sixth means, responsive to a determination that the
15 first and second requests should be able to bypass the
other, for sending the second data packet to a requested
node via a second virtual lane on the system area network
fabric.

20 50. The system as recited in claim 47, wherein the
request is an interrupt received by a target channel
adapter and further comprising:

25 fourth means for receiving the data packet, at a
host channel adapter, and decoding the data packet to
retrieve the interrupt; and

fifth means for interrupting the processor.

51. The system as recited in claim 50, wherein the data
packet is a first data packet and further comprising:

30 sixth means for receiving, at the host channel
adapter, an end of interrupt instruction;

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seventh means for encapsulating the end of interrupt instruction into a second data packet; and

8 eighth means for transmitting the second data packet to the target channel adapter via the system area network fabric.

52. The system as recited in claim 51, further comprising:

10 ninth means for receiving the second data packet;

10 tenth means for decoding the second data packet to determine that the interrupt is complete.

53. The system as recited in claim 47, wherein the foreign protocol is a peripheral component interconnect 15 bus protocol.

54. The system as recited in claim 47, further comprising:

20 fourth means for receiving, at the requested node, the data packet;

20 fifth means for decoding the data packet to obtain the foreign protocol request; and

25 sixth means for transmitting the foreign protocol request to an appropriate device.

55. The system as recited in claim 47, wherein the steps of receiving a request, encapsulating the request, and sending the data packet are performed by a host channel adapter.

30 56. The system as recited in claim 47, wherein the

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requested node is a target channel adapter.

57. The system as recited in claim 54, wherein the means
for receiving, at the requested node, the data packet,
5 decoding the data packet, and transmitting the foreign
protocol request are performed by a target channel
adapter.

10 58. The system as recited in claim 54, wherein the means
for receiving, at the requested node, the data packet,
decoding the data packet, and transmitting the foreign
protocol request are performed by a host channel adapter.

15 59. The system as recited in claim 54, wherein the means
for transmitting the foreign protocol request comprises
converting the request to an appropriate host
transaction.

20 60. The system as recited in claim 47, wherein the means
for receiving a request, encapsulating the request, and
sending the data packet are performed by a target channel
adapter.

25 61. The system as recited in claim 47, wherein the
requested node is a host channel adapter.

30 62. The system as recited in claim 47, wherein the means
for encapsulating the foreign protocol request comprises
placing the request into a data packet with appropriate
headers and trailers in the data packet to ensure that
the data packet is delivered across the system area

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network fabric to the requested node.

63. The system as recited in claim 54, wherein the means
for decoding the data packet comprises determining that
5 the data packet contains a foreign protocol request and
removing the foreign protocol request from the data
packet.

64. A system for processing foreign protocol requests
10 across a system area network, the system comprising:

first means for receiving a data packet from a system area network fabric;

second means for determining that the data packet contains an encapsulated foreign protocol transmission;

15 third means for decoding the data packet to obtain
the foreign protocol transmission; and

fourth means for sending the foreign protocol transmission to a requested device.

20 65. The system as recited in claim 64, wherein the
foreign protocol is a peripheral component interconnect
bus protocol.

66. The system as recited in claim 64, wherein the
25 requested device is an input/output adapter.

67. The system as recited in claim 64, wherein the means for receiving, determining, decoding, and sending are performed by a target channel adapter.

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68. The system as recited in claim 64, wherein the means

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for receiving, determining, decoding, and sending are performed by a host channel adapter.

69. The system as recited in claim 68, wherein the means
5 for sending comprises converting the foreign protocol
request to an appropriate host transaction.